Application No.: 10/520,370 Page 7

Art Unit: 3763

Remarks

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors are corrected.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to. In view of the objection, the rewritten abstract has been filed herewith.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-6 were objected to because of the informalities. In view of the objection, claims 1-6 have been amended to correct the informalities.

In paragraph 5 of the Action, claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In view of the rejection, claim 2 has been amended to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

In paragraph 6 of the Action, claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The applicant would like to point out that claim 1 is an independent claim and was not rejected. Claims 3, 5, and 6 are dependent upon claim 1. Therefore, the applicants believe that, in view of indication of allowability, claims 1, 3, and 5 should be allowable once claims 1, 3, and 5 overcome the objection stated in paragraph 3 of the Action. Claim 6 has been canceled to avoid redundancy.

In paragraph 7 of the Action, claim 2 was indicated to be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. As explained above, claim 2 has been amended

Application No.: 10/520,370 Page 8

Art Unit: 3763

to overcome the rejection. Therefore, the applicants believe that, in view of indication of allowability, claim 2 should be allowable.

With the amendments, the applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 are in the condition of allowability. Prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazunao Kubotera

Reg. No. 51,194

TAKEUCHI & KUBOTERA, LLP

200 Daingerfield Rd.

Suite 202

Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel. (703) 684-9777